

appointed her Assistant Secretary, Office of Human Development Services, U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, in 1977. In 1980, she returned to Oakland as president of the Center for Policy Development.

Five years ago, when the Unity Council was on the verge of bankruptcy, Arabella was persuaded to come back. She immediately developed a plan to address the organization's complex financial problems. Through her enormous skills, hard work, and dedication, not only has the organization survived the crisis, but it is thriving once again.

The Spanish Speaking Unity Council's assets, including the Community Resource Center, the Education Para Adelantar Building, the Esperanza Center, the Infant Care Center, the De Colores Pre-School, were all saved.

Under Arabella's leadership, all eyes are now on the Unity Council because of its Fruitvale BART project and its sponsorship of the Fruitvale Community Collaborative, formed to bring together residents, community groups, churches, schools, merchants, and agencies to improve the quality of life for children and families who live in the area. Residents are learning organization skills, they're learning how to access services, how to plan a project, and much more. Their philosophy is, "Working together as neighbors and friends, we can make our neighborhood a healthy place to live and keep it that way."

Another effort now underway, spearheaded by Arabella Martinez and the Spanish Speaking Unity Council, is a transit village with a mix of new residential, retail open space and a regional cultural center—within the confines and adjacent to the Fruitvale BART station. A new residential base would help support these shops as would the foot traffic from BART. While the proposed transit village is far from being accomplished, we have confidence that Arabella's drive, determination, negotiation skills, and ability to make things happen, will cause the transit village to happen. It's only a matter of time.

In addition to her service to the Fruitvale area, Arabella has lent her talents to numerous community board and commissions, including: The Women's Initiative for Self-Employment, the Oakland Business Development Corporation, the Bank of America's Police Advisory Committee, the New Oakland Committee, the Oakland Housing Authority, the Oakland Parks and Recreation Commission, and the University/Oakland Metropolitan Forum.

In the civic and community realms, her sagacious leadership, foresight, and compassion have clearly earned her the Oakland Citizen of the Year Award for lifetime achievement.

IN MEMORY OF HARRY (BUDDY) W. CORMIER, JR.

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 1997

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the memory of Buddy Cormier, who passed away last night after a long fight with cancer.

Buddy Cormier was a lifelong resident of DeWitt, AR, a little town not far from my home in Gillett. Buddy ran a small rice mill that his

father had founded many years ago and he epitomized the small businessman and community activist that has characterized so many small towns in Arkansas.

When I ran my farming operation, there was no one that was more of a joy to do business with than Buddy Cormier. He was always fair in his dealings and was as concerned about my bottom line as he was about his own—a rare characteristic in today's business world. He was a leader in the rice industry in Arkansas and in the country because he cared about preserving our heritage.

Buddy Cormier was a big man in every sense of the word. He had a limitless appetite for life and for the well-being of those around him. When we did business together, I often found myself with him a little longer than would be normal, simply because he so lifted my spirits. He had boundless energy and a good humor that was simply infectious.

This is the way that I will remember my friend: As a man who embraced the world; who cared deeply about those around him; who worked to make his corner of the world a better place. His body may have succumbed to illness, but his spirit will always live on. Rest in peace my friend, we'll miss you.

A TRIBUTE TO ROBERT C. JASNA

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 1997

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute today to one of Milwaukee's truly outstanding citizens, and one of America's top educators. As the Milwaukee Public Schools joins with friends throughout Wisconsin to honor superintendent of schools Robert C. Jasna on the occasion of his retirement, I would like to take a moment to reflect on Bob's remarkable career and his many contributions to public education in Milwaukee and our community as a whole.

A native of Milwaukee, Bob Jasna earned his degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and soon began his teaching career at Lincoln Elementary School in Appleton, WI. Bob then served his Nation as a platoon leader in the Army. Following his military service, Bob returned to Milwaukee and the classroom as a teacher at Juneau Junior/Senior High School, and quickly began to rise through the ranks of the Milwaukee Public Schools System. From 1973 to 1987, Bob served as principal at West Division, North Division, James Madison, and Riverside University High Schools, where the impact of his unique and innovative methods of teaching and leadership are still clear today.

In July 1989, Bob became associate superintendent of the Milwaukee Public Schools, and by 1991 he had become deputy superintendent. Since 1995, Bob has served as superintendent of the Milwaukee Public Schools, supervising all activities of the school system, and providing leadership and management expertise at every level of the system.

Let me be clear about the undeniable role Bob Jasna has played in the improvement of public education in Milwaukee's public schools. Under his steady hand, the Milwaukee Public School District has embraced a series of highly acclaimed reforms which have

already made a difference in the quality of education in our schools. Through the implementation of rigorous standards, students are now challenged to pass a series of proficiency examinations, and graduation requirements have been strengthened. Our students have met these challenges, and continue to achieve progress.

Anyone who has had the pleasure of working with Bob Jasna is immediately struck by his passion for education, and by his belief that all children should be able to receive a top notch education, regardless of their economic standing. Bob's hands-on approach to his job as the leader of the Milwaukee Public Schools has made a real difference in the lives of our teachers, and more importantly, our students. In an era of declining resources, aging school infrastructure, and student violence, Bob Jasna has been a beacon of leadership and hope for our schools.

I want to extend my good wishes to Bob's wife Judith, and his two children. Bob will be missed by our schools, but I have no doubt that Bob will enjoy his retirement and will continue to maintain an active presence in our community. Congratulations, Bob Jasna, on this most special occasion.

STATEMENT BY SARAH WACHTEL REGARDING ILLITERACY

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 1997

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of my colleagues I would like to have printed in the RECORD this statement by a high school student from Vermont, who was speaking at my recent town meeting on issues facing young people.

Ms. WACHTEL. Two years ago an elderly New York City woman almost died. Why? She ingested too much medication because she could not read the prescription label on the bottle. This woman is not in the minority. One-quarter of the world's population, 905 million people, cannot read. One in five American adults is functionally illiterate and 44 percent of American adults do not read even one book in the course of a year.

Statistics clearly show that illiteracy is on the increase and that fewer than ten percent of those in need are being reached. In 1985 Proctor and Gamble spent more on advertising than the U.S. Government spent on adult basic education.

The truth is by cutting funding for literacy programs we are threatening the future of our nation. The cost of illiteracy to business and the taxpayer is estimated at 20 billion dollars per year.

President Clinton has made literacy a priority with his America Reads initiative. He says such efforts will help us to reach a critical goal, that every American child will be able to read on his or her own by the third grade, but there are large numbers of people who cannot even read to their own children.

Public awareness is key. Parents must realize the importance of education and of literacy. They must know they are their child's first teacher. Illiteracy is a very quite problem which needs attention.

Illiteracy plagues rural areas, not only urban ones. Literacy programs are needed not just in cities but all across the country. Programs for employees can be installed at large corporations. The library system must